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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Hungary

SUBJECT Concentration and Forced Labor Camps/Evidence
 of Underground Activities and Sabotage

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there were several concentration camps in Budapest and many others throughout Hungary. One was in the Marko utica prison, another in the Mosonyi utica prison and others in Godollo, Pecs, Kaposvar, Debrecen, Nyiregghaza, and Kunszentmarton.

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2. The escapees told me that they were forced to clear the ruins in Budapest, rebuild bridges, factories, and workshops, etc. Their work day was from 14 to 16 hours. They all lacked proper clothing and a severe winter caused many to suffer frostbite, especially the women. In cases of sickness, no doctor was available and no medicine was given. When one died from sickness or starvation, his body was usually cremated in some unknown place rather than turned over to the next of kin. When this occurred, the authorities announced that the deceased had escaped and pretended to search for him and often notified his relatives.
3. The Marko utica concentration camp, in its beginning, housed men and women together in fairly large rooms, but later they were separated. The straw-covered floor or a crude-wooden bench served as a bed. The daily food ration consisted of a bowl of cabbage soup or boiled beans. Internees performing hard labor received in addition, 10 to 12 grams of oat or barley bread.
4. Relatives of the internees were permitted to bring them one two-kilogram parcel of food and clothing per month. Because the parcel had to be turned over to the guard, the internee often failed to receive the parcel or received only part of the contents.

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5. Until 1947 the internees were guarded by regular and relatively humane prison guards. After that period the prison guards were Communist-trained people's police who were and still are exceedingly cruel.
6. According to statistics obtained from escapees in August 1951, there were approximately 250,000 internees in Hungary performing forced labor. They were interned for indefinite periods and purely on suspicion. None had ever been tried or sentenced.
7. Recently (1952) some of the labor camps were infiltrated by spies serving under an alias, whose task was to mislead the internees and report on their relationship with the guards. Deep surveillance and the fact that the camps were surrounded by electrified barbed wire fence three to four meters high were noted.
8. Internees were forced to study the theory of Communism, look at Soviet films and to read the history of Communism. Emphasis was put on the suppression of all religions in the USSR and on the Western subjugation of negroes. Lectures were given by Party members who had travelled in the USSR and praised its achievements carried little conviction to the internees. Many of whom had gained knowledge of Communism from the occupancy of Hungary and from their World War II experiences in the USSR.
9. [redacted] there were many active anti Communist groups operating. The groups were responsible for a large number of fires which destroyed approximately 10 factories in the spring of 1952. The factories included the Tancsics Leather Factory, which was destroyed along with 300 tons of reparations leather slated for the USSR; a machine tool factory located at 19 Vaci ut, Budapest; the Gizella mill; and an airplane repair shop at Matyasfold. There were also fires in Miskolc, Vac, and Debrecen.
10. Investigations of the Tancsics Leather Factory fire by the State Security Forces found that the blaze had been set by persons entering the plant dressed in uniforms of the State Security Authority.
11. On 10 April 1952 there were two plant fires at the "Afrika" artillery munitions plant in Diosgyor. The bodies of two State Security Authority detectives were found floating in the Raba river during the spring of 1952. In all probability the anti Communist [redacted] 25X1 operated on an individual basis or in very small groups. [redacted] railway worker employed by the railroad who, with his friends, helped 15 persons escape to Austria. He hid them in the axle housing of a freight car. He himself escaped in the same manner and now resides in Australia.
12. There are also persons engaged in smuggling people out of Hungary on a commercial basis. They knew of all loopholes in the border security and of sentry tour hours. Most of the border guard troops were not volunteers but were assigned that duty after being drafted.
13. Persons desiring to escape from Hungary in the vicinity of Nick had to have a certificate of residence, military service papers, and work book in the event they were detained for questioning by security guards. People residing in the restricted area around the border also had to have special permits which were issued there. Sufficient cash was indispensable but large quantities of foreign currency were dangerous if found during an identity check-up. Farmers living near the border area usually helped the escapees.
14. The village of Nick which consisted of a large general store and a dairy was considered an excellent escape route because food was available in this area.

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